**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
**ABSTRACT**

Haphazard growth of major Hill Shrines – Need for regulation - Orders issued – Regarding.

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**REVENUE (ENDTS.II) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.MS.No. 291 Date: 07.08.2015

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**ORDER**:

Andhra Pradesh has several Hindu Hill Shrines which are well known all over the country. Some of them are Srisailam, Simhachalam, Annavaram, Kanaka Durga and Dwaraka Tirumala.

2) On account of rapid influx of pilgrims, Tirumala was in an expansion mode for nearly four decades. There were a outcry in the media as well as public that Tirumala was gradually becoming a concrete jungle. On account of a public interest litigation, the High Court banned further constructions in Tirumala. This experience in Tirumala has to noted by all other temples administrators.

3) During their recent visits, the Minister (Endowments), Principal Secretary (Endowments) and Commissioner (Endowments), have all found that large scale constructions are slowly but surely coming up on top of these Hill Shrines thereby spoiling the serene atmosphere. Huge multi-storied buildings have already been constructed close to the temples on the hill top. These structures have dwarfed those historic temples. This is neither good from a heritage point of view nor from an aesthetic point of view. Hence, it is proposed to impose a ban on indiscriminate construction on hill top shrines. **Construction of the following types of buildings on top of the hills is completely banned**:

A) Administrative buildings.
B) Choultries.
C) Pilgrim amenity complexes.
D) Guest Houses.
E) Shopping complexes.
F) Hospitals, Dispensaries, Schools or Colleges.
G) Any other construction activity which is unrelated to religious activities of the temple.

**4)** However, **the following will be permitted on case by case basis.**
A) Construction of Annadana Satram.
B) Construction of Veda / Agama Patasala.
C) Queue lines or queue complexes.
D) Drinking water reservoirs.
E) Toilet and other sanitation facilities.
F) Vrata Mandapams, Yagasalas or any structure where rituals take place.

5) Also the following instructions are issued for strict compliance by all Executive Officers and Commissioner of Endowments.

A) **No Executive Officer shall execute any new work without prior approval of the Commissioner and the Government in these 7 temples**. The Commissioner shall ensure that there is a strict compliance to the orders of the Government.

B) Trees shall not be cut on top of the hill. They should be carefully preserved and nurtured. If it is inevitable, **with prior permission,** they shall be transplanted and alternately 10 plants have to be freshly planted to compensate for the loss of a tree.

C) Pilgrim amenity complexes, Choultries, Kalyana Mandapams and guest houses should be constructed down hill to provide better facilities to pilgrims.

D) If sufficient land is not available down hill the required minimum land shall be acquired.

E) Free bus service may be provided between down hill and uphill for the benefit of poor pilgrims.

F) Pilgrims should be encouraged to chant the name of the Lord and climb steps to reach the hill top. This will improve the physical fitness of devotees besides increasing their devotion.

G) The Executive Officer shall undertake massive afforestation and water shed programmes to increase the flora and fauna on the hills. They shall also undertake landscaping activities extensively on top of the hills to beautify the temple surroundings.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.S.V. PRASAD
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Endowments, AP Hyderabad.
The All Executive Officers, Endowments Dept through CED.
The All Regional Joint Commissioners of Endowments Department.
The All District Collectors of Andhra Pradesh.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER